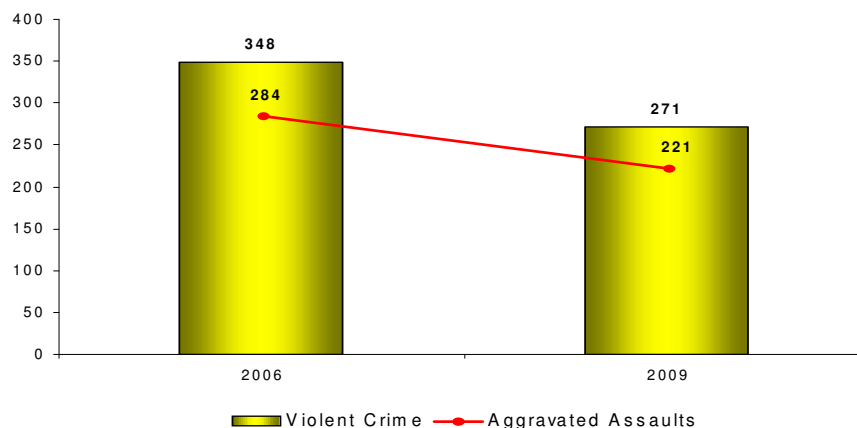


Worcester County

Working to reduce violent crime in Maryland

Governor O'Malley's primary concern for the State of Maryland is to provide safety for its citizens. To date, Maryland has the lowest homicide and violent crime numbers in a quarter of a century. However, the real story can be told at the local level where the difficult work of addressing violent crime and supporting victims is done every day. Over the last 3 years, through unprecedented federal, state, and local law enforcement collaboration, Worcester County has seen a 3.8% reduction in total crime, a 22.1% reduction in violent crime, and a 1.1% reduction in property crime. In addition, there has been a significant reduction in aggravated assault (-22.2%). Ocean City, the largest city in Worcester County, has seen a remarkable 49.7% decrease in violent crime and a 63.7% decrease in aggravated assaults from 2006 - 2008.

Worcester County Violent Crime Trends 2006 - 2009



WORCESTER COUNTY MAKES AN IMPACT:

Now more than ever before, crime reduction depends on federal, state, and local collaboration. Real-time information sharing, more effective crime analysis, new technology, the strategic targeting of violent offenders, and improved community resources all contributed to Worcester County's success.

Governor O'Malley's Office of Crime Control and Prevention provided \$808,518 in grant funding to Worcester County from 2007-2009 to prevent and control crime. As a result, Worcester County has been able to implement successful crime fighting strategies such as:

- **Community Policing** - Worcester County received funding from GOCCP to support a variety of community policing initiatives that use enhanced police patrols to regain neighborhoods and identify problems. Funds are also allocated to officer overtime which enables them to address street crimes on a more proactive basis.
- **Youth Prevention** - The Worcester County Youth Prevention Program, held in Berlin, offers critical programs to the community's youth. A certified drug counselor provides adolescents with assessments, referrals, and services that retain adolescents in treatment, reduce substance use, and promote pro-social interaction. Through pro-social bonding and strengthening life skills, this program is also able to help 5th and 6th grade male latchkey students reduce risk factors associated with their academic failures, and anti-social behavior.

Key Initiatives

- Heightened Supervision of Violent Offenders
- CompStat on Demand
- Crime Analysis
- Crime Mapping
- CSAFE
- Community Policing
- Mobile Field Software
- License Plate Recognition
- E-Citation
- Play it Safe
- Domestic Violence Investigation Initiative
- Protective Order Service
- Youth Prevention

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To learn more please contact GOCCP at (410)821-2828 or info@goccp-state-md.org.

Worcester County

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WORCESTER COUNTY MAKES AN IMPACT:

- **Crime Analysis** - Hosted by the Worcester County Office of the State's Attorney, the Worcester County Crime Analyst Program employs a crime analyst who is responsible for compiling, organizing, maintaining, integrating, analyzing, and reporting findings on crime and other related topics to the various police agencies throughout the county.
- **License Plate Recognition** - The Ocean City Police Department's License Plate Recognition project uses computerized image-processing technology to identify stolen vehicles and traffic violators. Through real-time scanning of vehicle license plates, officers are able to more readily identify violators and take the appropriate action.
- **Play it Safe** - In conjunction with the Worcester County Health Department, the Ocean City Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee, and the Town of Ocean City a statewide prevention initiative is being implemented for high school graduates who celebrate their senior week in Ocean City. This program strives to increase the safety of the graduates by providing events free of alcohol and other drug use.
- **CSAFE** - Worcester County received funding from GOCCP to support various initiatives that focus on increasing law enforcement presence and community relationships. Dedicated officers conduct vehicular, bike, and foot patrols while targeting open air drug markets. These initiatives also utilize community mobilization which helps to improve the communication between law enforcement officers and the community. The Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc., Teens Supporting a Safe Community program in collaboration with the CSAFE team, provides protective factors, primary prevention, early intervention, and inter-agency partnerships. In collaboration with the Pocomoke City Police Department, the program targets high-risk, adolescent girls aged 9 through 14. Components of the program include assessment, weekly gender specific education groups, empowerment meetings, and service coordination.



"Worcester County has succeeded in fighting crime by strategically identifying and then targeting its problem areas. Programs aimed at stabilizing neighborhoods enhance local communities and keep residents safe and secure. Efforts to reduce unsafe practices by visitors have protected the welfare of those visitors and help maintain a high quality of life for the area."

Governor Martin O'Malley